

October 23, 2001

To: NITC Commissioners
From: Anne Byers, Community IT Manager
Subject: Community Council Report

Action Item Updates

Updated information on the Community Council's action items are included in the meeting materials.

Community and Rural IT Development

The Community Council has identified community and rural IT development as its highest priority. Accordingly, the bulk of the Council's efforts over the past several months have focused on this area. The Community Council of the NITC and the University of Nebraska's Technologies Across Nebraska initiative have collaborated on the development of the Community Information Technology Toolkit. The toolkit offers a number of resources to help communities become Information Age communities, including a nine-question assessment to help communities determine how well they are utilizing information technology. The toolkit also contains additional resources, success stories, and answers to frequently asked questions.

The toolkit is available at <http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/toolkit> or from <http://technologiesacrossnebraska.unl.edu/>.

Community Technology Fund

As of this date, the funding for the NITC's Community Technology Fund remains intact. In preparation for the 2001 round of the Community Technology Fund, the guidelines have been revised. Changes were made in the program's funding priorities, award size, method of submission, and disbursement.

Funding Priorities. In past rounds, the goals of the NITC and the priorities of the Community Council served as the funding priorities of the Community Technology Fund. The Community Council has identified the following priorities for the 2002 round:

- Projects which use information technology to address community needs related to community and economic development, the delivery of local government and library services, and health care.
- Projects which use information technology to address community needs in innovative ways or projects in which communities are initiating the use of information technology to address community needs.
- Projects which demonstrate strong collaboration within a community or region in addressing IT development.

Award Size. The size of awards has been limited to \$25,000. In previous years, a range of \$15,000 to \$25,000 was suggested.

Submission of Applications. Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically this year. If an applicant is unable to submit an electronic copy, alternative arrangements can be made. The guidelines also state that if applicants have not received confirmation that their application was received or experience unexpected server problems, a fax copies can be sent as a backup.

Disbursement. In order to provide some additional encouragement for applicants to submit their final reports, we are proposing withholding 10% of the grant award until receipt of a satisfactory final report. Recipients will receive 60% of the grant award in the first and 30% of the award in the second installments.

Dates

Early November, 2001	Release of Guidelines
January 18, 2002	Applicants must notify the NITC of their intent to apply
February 15, 2002	Applications due
April, 2002	Awards announced